the mass art paper

Issue #8 MAY 4, 1970

The "Coalition"

When It appeared, about two weeks ago, that there were no candidates to run for president of the SGA and that those running for the other SGA offices were unopposed, the idea of an alternative form of student government began to circulate. The original design for what had been called, for want of a better name, a "coalition" government, has been attributed to Robert Moore Jr. As Mr. Moore sees it, the "coalition" would be composed of 8 members, expanding to as many as 12 if conditions demanded it. These members would be selected according to their views on an "issue" they feel is important, and according, hopefully, to their ability to see their issue through intelligently. In the first stages of selection, the candidate for membership would formulate his view on the issue he wishes to make his "platform". (this could be done in an article for the newspaper, or orally, if he prefers.) On a designated date the general student body would vote to accept or reject this candidate as a "colaition"member. A majority vote from the number of students present would constitute an acceptance. If accepted, the member would then bring his platform to a meeting of the coalition itself, where the members would fully discuss it. These meetings would be open to anyone who would wish to attend them, and as Chris Barnes suggests in her article in thes issue, a tape of the meeting would be made available in the library. After the discussion within the "coalition" the body's members would vote whether or not to endorse the issue. Endorsement would mean the "coalition's" general complicity with the one member's view of the issue. The issue would then be brought to the general student body to be rxplored further and voted upon.

Again, a majority vote from the students present would mean acceptance of that view of the issue. If the member's issue was voted favorably, he would then be free to carry out this view. When the issue has been resolved, the member could choose either to remain on the coalition as an active member or to withdraw his msmbership. Mr. Moore also suggested that places on the coalition should be open to potential members who have no specific issue to present, but who have the will and ability to work generally for the student body. Also, opponents of a mamber's view in an issue may also become members of the colaition if they are voted in.

The mechanics of the student government would be run by two students hired by the SGA. Joan Rubin has offered a variation of this idea, that instead of simply a treasurer an actual accountant should be hired. She believes that, above all, the "coalition" should be flexible to avoid the stagnation and frustration imposed by the present system's rigidity. The meetings, she says, should be conducted casually and personally, (much like those at MIT) in a room smaller than the auditorium. She answers opponents of the "coalition" by calling attention to the Mailer-Breslin type of polititian that is, unfamiliar with the conventional political methods, one should be willing to try unorthodox means of Government if they seem beneficial.

There have been several other variations suggested to the basic"coalition" idea. Carol Mitchell believes that members should not be constrained by the need to find a specific issue.

Dr, Hawthorne, who has an defatigable way of making harsh realism seem harmlessly funny, said at a recent student government meeting said that members of the coalition should be chosen arbitrarily by the colleges computor.

The "coalition" does have some vehement opponents. Mark Ankeles believes that the committee could too easily become representative of thh painting department philosophy at school. Bruce Ingliss, who at one time was running for president of the SGA, but dropped out because he was uncomfortable about the politics involved. with the office, has doubts about whether the coalition can work, but is willing to be a member of it if it does. Dean McGavern, too, sees flaws in the structure that make it impractical. Frank Siccone, SGA president, feels strongly that the present system can be made to work, and refers us to the fact that people presently are running as candidates for offices of the SGA (Donald Doyle, president, Vasco Perez Vice president, Evelyn Murphy, secretary, etc.) Michael Hachey, whose poinions are often reasonably conditional, believes that the coalition could succeed if it has "the right people on it."

Barbara DuVal

The opinions expressed in Paper articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Paper itself.

ALL STATEMENTS ON ISSUES FOR THE PROPOSED COALITION GOVERNMENT WILL BE PRINTED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE PAPER. THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING IDEAS AND ISSUES WILL BE NEXT FRIDAY, MAY 8TH.

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EDITORIAL I

Mass. Art's conduct toward three recent "group participation" events was dishearteningly true to form. Toward the grave subject of the April 15th Moratorium,we maintained a face of,for the most part, frivolous non-participation. The attendance of the people from this college was alarmingly insufficien Most people felt, it seems, that they'd given Peace a chance by taking part in last year's November 15th "field day", and on April 15th, their thoughts turned to the less demanding promises of Spring. It was gruesome, on that morning, to hear people in one class energetically discussing the brutality of teachers who refused to release them from classes.. ...not for the Moratorium gathering, but so that they could cheer the Red Sox as they slaughtered an opposing team. There is something frightening about people who can view Peace and Baseball as interchangeable games.

On the other hand, the atmosphere at the April 16th Student Body Meeting was solemn and self-important. SGA President Frank Siccone introduced three issues on which the scattered pockets of students in the auditorium would vote, at which point several stalwart members of the audience launched into a discussion of these issues.

Now it would hardly be heresy to suggest that most Student Body Meetings,because of the nature of most Mass. Art students, take themselves far too seriously in proportion to the amount they accomplish. The redeeming grace of these meetings is their unquestionable element of humor.And this meeting was by no means an exception. Some flaming radical in the balcony decided to focus various colored spotlights on Mr. Siccone and other speakers, which enriched the meeting with an undeniable Community Auditions luster. The problem, of course, is that under present conditions, SGA officers are forced to be entertainers (as the spotlight made clear), instead of believable human beings. This particular Student Body Meeting pointed out the need for a more humanizing format in which solutions to issues can be sought (See Editorial

The third "group participation"event was Earth Day, April 22nd. Mass. Art's gesture was the construction of an aesthetically pleasing garden, as most people at the college already know. The garden is a welcome rite of Spring, a sign that at least something here is alive. But we must not delude oursleves into believing that the garden answers the mounting biological crises that Earth Day was meant to emphasize. The garden served (and hopefully,will serve) a psychological function for those who worked on it; it provided a unity among people, much like the Paint-In did. That alone, though, will not earn us a reprieve in this wasted environment. What is imperative is a "revolution" of individual life styles, a total uprooting of the habits and posessions we now must acknowledge are killing us. The communications media are storming with warnings that cars, unnecessary babies (more than two), plastic clorox bottles (which take millenniums to decompose and when burned, release noxious HCl into the atmosphere),detergents....all things we assume to be part of our cherished, benign culture... are, in fact, suicidal weapons. If we persist in our familiar,deadly patterns, we must expect certain and deserved death. Most people procrastinate if threats to their lives are not immediate;their survival instincts are slow to rally unless the "enemy" is charging at them with obviety. In small dosages, death by poison is gradual and, therefore, unbelievable to most people. To counteract this kind of mass self-deception, much more than a garden is needed. No medium , unfortunately (including an Editorial) is far-reaching enough to stir more than surface reactions to Earth Day. The most important reactions must come from within the individual, incited by each man's own challenged sense of self-preservation.

p.s. For God's sake,get the sculpture people proper ventilation for the plastic fumes they insist on producing.

Barbara Du Val

COALITION: An Alliance of Persons, Parties or Countries" (Funk & Wagnall)

The desirability of an alliance of persons at Mass Art couldn't be more self-evident. At a time when no candidates run for the presidency of the student government *, we have no choice but to seek out a more effective way of allying ourselves. The problem is apathy on the part of most of the student body. However, there are many who have the time and energy to devote to the issues of this school. I feel a coalition would be the best vehihicle for those interested students.

The SG system we now have, like our state and national governments, strangles in its own red tape. Archaic parliamentary procedure has become a method of frustrating people from taking any action. Can a body of four officers do all the work and recognize all the various viewpoints of the students? A body of eight people would bring at least twice as many new ideas to the student body for consideration. Many students have good concepts and the ability to carry them through; however, they understandably do not wish to sacrifice their creative development. Yet they would be willing to work intensely for a shorter period of time on an issue of great importance to them. The present SG system is unfair to the overburdened officers, unfair to the student body who are not totally represented, and unfair to those interested students who would like to become involved but cannot spend valuable time on issues of less interest to them and mundane business affairs.

The coalition will be a beneficial influence and should not be feared as an unwieldy body of power. Firstly the issues will have to be approved by the student body, who will be better informed sue to the larger number of people directly involved with their formulation, who will carry the information to the students. Secondly, those who feel that their views are not being recognized will be moved into action. They won't be able to afford apathy, and will be drawn into the system. Eventually, it is hoped that activity will replace apathy. Coalition members, those with issues who wish to join the coalition, and groups formed to oppose issues will interact in a very constructive way.

What I saw and felt at the last SG meeting was frustration. Those who supported the coalition vs. those who did not trust the idea. What, in essence, was being demonstrated was a coalition; yet those few people who spoke all felt the frustration of not being able to carry their ideas to fruition. They are essentially weakened by the student government in power. A more relevant system must be devised to draw the student into the politics of the school. Though politics is something many understandably have an aversion towards, by using our stregnth as

cont'd. on pg. 5

EDITORIAL II

The problem of establishing a successful Student Government system at Mass. Art must be appraoched pragmatically: what kind of structure will bring the college's most intelligent and energetic students together and allow them to impliment their ideas? The present system demands as a prerequisite for office only availability, This is not strong enough to lead a college with. Pragmatically speaking, the present system isn't working.

An alternative suggestion of a "coalition" government has recently beep submitted (see Page 1). In theory, this system has its flaws and risks. Nonetheless, because of the positive response it has generated (as opposed to the usual "no response"), the proposed structure will probably work. People, valuable people and not just available people, have said they are willing to make it work. This in itself is solid reason why the proposed government-by-committee should at least be tried.

Barbara Du Val

Earth Day at Mass. Art

The activities of Earth Day at Mass. Art started off at a committee meeting on the subject of environmental week. The members of the committee decided that an actual event, which would have lasting value, would be the best way for us to show our concern for the environment. We decided that we should improve our own environment and that the rutted, packed field behind the school should be made into a usable area. We met with Karl Linn and discussed possibilities for the site. It was decided that the space should be left flexible so that it could be used as an environmental experimental ground and could meet future needs which students found for it.

Saturday, about thirty students worked on breaking the hard crust of the soil and preparing the way for a large group activity on Earth Day. Once we had worked with the land and developed a feeling about it we decided to leave the center area open and make a ten foot wide walkway around the entire perimeter of the area. This outer area would be divided into ten foot modular units of varying heights on which students could build or hang art work. It would also set the area off from the street and parking lot.

I found it extremely exciting to see this mud hold transformed into an area which was our own. The activities of Earth Day seemed, to me, what should typify the use of the area. This was the first day I felt as I had during the Paint-In. That is, that we were a community. We came together and interacted with joy at what we were accomplishing.

The area is now usable though there is still much work to be done. It is up to all of us to see that this beautiful start is not an end. We made this park for the school and the community around the school. I can't help thinking of this as a sign of what is possible in what so often seems to me to be a sea of apathy.

To those who were skeptical about or hostile to this project, I hope you can find some joy in what was done. The possibilities for use of this site are endless. I am looking forward to seeing it grow.

Scott Wixon

From the S.G.A.

My comments will be brief for the same reasons I was "unavailable for comment" for the last issue - there are only twenty-four hours in a day.

1. The purchase of the Robert Moore painting for Henry Steeger?

A decision was made by the Executive Board of the Student Government with the consent of the Chairman of the Art Purchasing Committee. (It was originally planned to have the Student Council make the decision. That day they were at a meeting with Karl Linn and left sporadically during the afternoon so that none remained.)

We felt that the best way to spend money on a gift would be to purchase something at the Art Auction because the money would go to the Exhibitions Committee, therefore continue to benefit the students.

To have the SGA purchase a piece is naturally a nod of favorable recognition. We felt that if a student work were chosen inevitable conflice would arise. For this reasons, and also the fact that the faculty donated their work so that all the money was forwarded to the Exhibitions Commitee, we decided to buy a faculty member's work.

It was felt that the majority of the students respected Robert Moore's work.

2. Status of the SGA elections? Not yet known.

3. SGA feeling about Black Artist's Union?

The Black Artists Union's Constitution was received and accepted by the Student Council. We endorse the organization in principle. The amount of financial support will be determined in the make-up of next year's budget.

4. Resignation of Nancy Polowski.

The office of the Secretary is a very time and energy consuming job and can lead to a sublimation of one's own personal endeavors to some extent. In order for the SGA to function it is necessary that this office be fully realized.

I felt it necessary to appoint an acting-secretary for the remainer of this year.

5. Activities of the SGA this year?

I will attempt to make a list of the activities SGA has been involved with this year whether by initiating, participating, sponsoring, or supporting financially.

The list is not complete nor is it listed in priorities.

Students serving on the following faculty committees: Curriculum, Scholastic Standards, Admissions, Exhibitions and Programs, Library.

Ad Hoc Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Advisory Commission to the Board of Trustees.

Acceptance of new SGA Constitution.

Accepted in principle All College Constitution.

Involved in screening candidates for faculty and administrative positions.

Recommendations to President Nolan concerning faculty promotions (Russell Doucette was recently promoted to Professor).

Letter to the faculty to reconsider the tenure policy.

Teacher and course evaluations (the forms for this semester will be out soon).

Series of meetings with Dober Pattock and Upton and Associates, program consultants for the new campus.

Basketball team
Drama Club
Kevin Dewey - Dance Company
Film Series
Exhibitions
Visiting Speakers
Open House
Concert Dance Company
Boston Theatre Company
New curtains for auditorium.
I.D. Cards
Handbook
Yearbook - (should be out soon)
Paint-In
Social events
Two 16mm projectors for audio-visual dept.
Moratorium Programs
Buses for the March on Washington
College Assistance
Teaching Programs in Black Community through CUE Committee
Senior graduation
Earth Day garden
The Mass. Art Paper.

Frank Siccone

To make better use of equipment, time, and space at Mass Art, a Special Equipment Space Study Committee is planning to propose that the college change to a tri-semester or four quarter system with regular courses scheduled in the summer as well as during the other seasons. The committee would appreciate your comments on such a proposal, especially if you have experienced any scheduling other than our present two semesters. Please contact either of the co-chairmen, Calvin Burnett or Carl Gibson.

About/On Meetings

Part I

What the "Incredible Faculty Meeting" revealed to the readers of the Mass. Art Paper was the position which some of the faculty members took concerning the direction of the college and how to cope with "radical" and "conservative" policies of the students and of their fellow faculty members.

The contrasting views of the faculty members indicated a divarication within the Mass. Art faculty and that each faction is trying to influence the new administration. Perhaps the only "revolution" going on here is within the faculty and administration. The students would probably like to hear more opinions expressed by their teachers, whom some students regard as "paranoid" or too fearful of the administration to express their own viewpoints.

Part II

At the April 16th meeting, among the issues discussed by the entire student body, which was amazingly reduced from seven-hundred-and-nine students to a mere seventy-three, was whether or not Mr. Dee's catering service would continue for another year at Mass. Art. Mr. Dee explained to us the unforeseen difficulties he experienced, of which the most annoying was the faulty refrigeration unit in our own cafeteria. Apparently this misfortune went undetected for some time in spite of complaints by students to Dean McGavern about the spoilage of the food. Unfortunately, the complaints were not relayed to Mr. Dee, who has been losing money because of spoilage. The students present at the meeting then voted either "yes" or "no" on whether Mr. Dee would stay on. He lost by one vote at a meeting so well attended that the amount of students did not even make a quorum. Perhaps the question will be brought up again at another meeting, hopefully better attended and perhaps Mr. Dee will b e given the chance he deserves.

Part III

Contrary to Mr. Dee's arguments of defense, rumors circulate from the general vicinity of the administration's offices, whispering that the refrigeration units were overstocked with food- thus spoilage occured, and that complaints were delivered to Mr. Dee. But so far these are only rumors. Who <u>does</u> know the truth?

Marie Rock

Suicide... is it possible that we are in the first throes of personal and environmental death... have we lost the power to re-define ,redeem? Is renaissance of any kind only historically significant, of no present relevance for any of us? Have we in full faith embraced the concept of death...can there be no hope left for the living?

The Revolution... is it a desperate, futile struggle, the embittered political spasm of a hopelessly diseased society judged incurable by itself? Has the hanged man become our national signator?

"Over and over I repeat:
Outstep the circle acknowledge Death's
good warrant and do not die

Step back in and know the universe goes one
way and you the other...

Truth why has man Frankensteined you

You are the big lie Truth

It is you who stops man from outstepping himself

In every man there is a lovely death but none
shall die it

...Truth stands in the way."

Rubin

LETTERS

With regard to the letter in your last edition from Prof. J. David Broudo. Prof. Broudo's rebuttal to Leo Abbett's letter was more confused and tragic than the letter to which he was responding. Prof. Broudo seems to have read into Mr. Abbett's letter some things that weren't even there and missed some important points.

He includes in his rebuttal unnecessary criticisms of Mass. Art, its students and faculty that are slanderous and based on naive and superficial assumptions.

Where does Mr. Abbett say that structure and teaching <u>DO</u> smother creativity? He does say that the "regimented world of high schools" and certain teachers do limit the student's creativity. This cannot be denied. I am most familiar with a regimented high school system. My high school is not the exception but is most typical of public high schools in this state. One art teacher was serving a sixteen hundred pupil high school and then only part time since she had to monitor study halls and serve as a home room "den mother". She was subject to advice from administrators on the conduct of her classes.

As a senior student in that system I was allowed one and a half hours contact per week with the Art teacher. Although I went to the school principal to plead for adjustment of my schedule, the system would not budge. In place of the time slot that I wished to spend for art study I was forced to take a course called Senior Science. It comprised of nothing more than ninth grade busy work. I was told tha this was the way it had to be. This what Mr. Abbett dislikes.

He closes his letter with an important point that he is a "bitter departing senior". Bitter because he experienced quite a different freshman year than today's freshman. This school was very much regimented then. Discipline was enforced even down to the length of hair on boys and a regulation that girls wear skirts.

I ask you Prof. Broudo, which is preferable, these dress codes or the "faddism of today"?

I strongly resent your criticisms and labeling of our dress styles. They are

LETTERS (CONT'D.)

[Cont'd From Rrevious Page]

not of any "chichè manner" at all. They are one aspect of the life styles of a large minority group in this country, and only time can prove or disprove their "faddism".

Does Prof. Broudo wish us to believe that creativity stems from discipline and dedication? He uses the old masters as an example.

Having visited Italy last summer I saw the works of many old masters. If you talk with an Italian about the great painters of Italy, most likely he will say the greatest was Raphael. He will usually go on to lament about Raphael's frivolousness and lack of dedication to his art. They say he was as great a lover as a painter and he died early at age 37 due to his frivolous life. Yes, he was a "dynamo of creativity" even though he certainly lacked discipline and dedication.

This is not to reject self-discipline, dedication, purpose, or direction only to show that they don't foster creativity. They only ensure greater quantity and therefore quality of the creative process.

Prof. Broudo downgrades the student-faculty exhibit. I am not impressed by his criticisms. They were superficially pompous without the knowledge of the sensitivity of the originators. He criticises the overall attitude as frivolous and confused. He bases his criticisms on only one afternoon's visit to this college.

He backs up his criticism by referring to professors, who are old friends, and instructors, who are Mass. Art graduates. "They no longer could teach students they could not find", because students cannot learn from professors who cannot teach. Perhaps they should be taken over by the U. of Mass. They are the ones who "seem to be falling apart by themselves". For it is their role, not the students', to open doors to skills and knowledge, to bring the wisdom of the past, and above all, inspire the future.

Many students prefer painting at home, that is an artist's prerogative. I agree that much can be learned in class, but only so much. I think Mr. Abbett feels the same. But how does working at school get the blisters on your hands, while working at home gets them "on your rears"? Unless Prof. Broudo holds his paint brush in some unconventional manner that we at Mass. Art art not yet familiar.

What happens after graduation? Hopefully we will not have to perpetuate the system with which Mr. Abbett and I have become disillusioned. Hopefully it and the "commercial world" will not infringe on at least this artist's right of creativity (although "exacting demands" leave little room for creativity). Hopefully, more than teach sound knowledge and techniques, we will inspire our students with warmth, sensitivity, and love. Years later the student will, I think, appreciate more the teacher who not only "taught and trained you", but who also really knew you, who shared coffee with you and much more.

I will conclude my letter here, although there are some points in Prof. Broudo's letter that I have not dealt with. I do this intentionally because they were so trite and inane that they don't deserve a response.

Brian Reilly

Dear Fans of Jukebox,

A satisfactory acoustic environment is one in which the character and magnitude of all sounds are compatible with the satisfactory use of the space for its intended purpose. The environment of the cafeteria, unsatisfactory even for eating purposes, changes the character of some great sounds into a rock version of supermarket muzak.

So, rather than sign petitions out of musical desperation to keep the jukebox, why not start something to get music courses into the curriculum, access to the audio-visual department without having to chase people around for it, as well as the school's acquiring necessary new equipment and repairing the equipment it already has.

Mary O'Connor

cont'd. from pg. 2

a student body we could achieve many beneficial things for the school and for ourselves. Some of the issues now being discussed include:

A placement bureau for graduates
A better cafeteria arrangement
Assistance in obtaining studio/living space
A country facility which would remain open in the summer
A bus for field trips, visits to NYC, and country facility

In the past year I have seen many encouraging advances made at Mass Art, mostly on the part of the administration. This impetus should be continued by the students. The Paint-In, the Auction, Moratorium Day and Earth Day all demonstrated the enormous potential of the student body in achieving a desired goal. Why allow that power to lie dormant?

The coalition as I envision it would be a flexible group of people who proved their eligibility by pure energy. They would present their issue. Once they had the backing of the coalition members, they then would present their ideas to the student body through the newspaper and dialogue. If approved, the coalition and the student body would cooperate in accomplishing that task. Once that goal has been realized, that student could return to his own creative involvement or remain on the coalition and help with the next issue.

The coalition would hire a clerk to handle paperwork, freeing more students for more meaningful involvement.

Tape recordings would be made of all coalition meetings and filed in the Library for anyone to refer to.

Coalition meetings would be open to all students and faculty.

The greatest advantage of this type of government would be its inherent character of drawing students into the affairs of the school rather than alienating them.

Chris Barnes

LETTERS (CONT'D.)

The following is an exchange between Tom Dempsey and Professor J. David Broudo, resulting from Professor Broudo's letter in the last issue of the Paper.

****

Dave-

You don't know what the fuck you are talking about. Open your eyes and you will maybe discover that you're alive.

Tom Dempsey

Tom-

I prefer to believe that you are not as shallow as your knee-jerk reaction and four letter words suggest you are. When you pass puberty you will discover there is more to life and art than masterbation.

Everyone is nineteen only at different times. Everyone goes through "The World Revolves Around Me and only I can see" syndrome. As you get older you realize that it was only at nineteen that you knew everything. With age wisdom,experience , questions and doubts set in and you are the wiser for it. Some cultures even reverse the wisdom and age.

Common courtesy and regard for the opinions of others is the heart of dialogue and if you can swallow your arrogance a little and listen as well as you try to shout down come visit our department where I guarantee I will teach you something about teaching art.

Professor J. David Broudo

During the recent Student Government meeting the issue concerning whether or not to continue the present catering service was decided by the student body and the result was in favor of dismissing the present catering service, by a one vote majority. Forty-three votes were in favor of dismissal and forty-two were against.

The Executive Officers have since voted to reconsider the issue and put it to another referendum because there was a difference of only one vote. The Student Government Association states in Article XVI ," the rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised shall govern the Student Association..." According to Robert's Rules of Order,Revised, the procedure used by the Executive Officers appears to be illegal.

The vote should not be reconsidered on the grounds that there was not a substantial difference between the votes,because a one vote difference constitutes a majority. According to the S.G.A. Constitution,"All proposals shall require the approval of a majority of the students participating in the referendum..." The other issues decided upon at the same meeting were allowed to stand and so the issue concerning the catering service should also be considered decided.

If the student body is to settle issues within the framework of a democratic form of government,the rules should be strictly adhered to. Must the student body gather repeatedly to decide on the same issue? What will happen if next time there is only a five vote difference; will the Executive Officers think this is enough to decide the issue or will we vote again? Actually, we should have a referendum to decide if we should vote again. Who knows, it could take years to settle this issue; meanwhile, the catering service is waiting for a decision.

"Student apathy" is the most worn out phrase in this college, but it is not difficult to understand this attitude when students consider that one vote will not matter, so why bother.

The reason for this article does not concern the catering service, but is concerned with seeing that Student Government affairs are consucted in a responsible and legal fashion. If the Executive Officers want to reconsider the issue, they should use proper procedure to do so; otherwise the issue should be considered closed.

Effie Noren

We have reached a plateau where at least we all recognize the destruction we have brought to our environment. Yet very little recognition is being made concerning the destruction we are collectively bringing to our bodies by the foods we eat. I refer to the types of foods being sold and eaten in our cafeteria. This is not a value judgement on the individual caterer, but on the unnatural eating habits our consumer culture has produced. "We are what we eat" proponents have gained little ground in making us aware of the problem that might someday supplant our environmental problems.

Just as we have learned that the luxuries and conveniences of yesterday have become the eyesores and threats of today, we must become more aware of what our pop culture diet is doing to our health and the health of future generations.

We often hear that man today is healthier and larger than ever before, due to the better and more plentiful food provided by our superculture. However, as we are the first generation of the television age, we are also the first to have been so totally raised on "pop foods". The conjured image of our more recent ancestors (the big healthy ones) is characterized by wholesome meals of fresh meats, vegetables, and home-baked breads. It remains to be seen what the present age of treated, frozen, dried, preserved, doctored-up,prettied-up and otherwise tampered-up foods will do to us. (This is not even to mention what effect radioactive fallout is having on fresh foods.) Even meat, the prime source of protein in the human diet, receives a chemical onslaught of antitoxidants, flavoring materials, coloring and curing agents, emulsifiers, refining and bleaching agents. Can we then rely on french fries, onion rings, doughnuts, soft drinks, Fritos and Ring-Dings to supply the nutrition that very often our meat cannot?

If the plastic culture that we are so aware of when we drive along Routes 1 or 9, which suddenly seem lined with Chicken Delights, Senor Pizza, Kelley's Beefburgers, and Pancake Houses is not checked soon, we may someday be forced to legislate eating in order to avoid a nutritional famine.

Focusing on our own cafeteria, I feel obligated to make a value judgement on the food served there. I must admit the cafeteria has been beneficial to me. After sampling the spicey tunafish, Caloburgers, and bite-defying donuts, I have been forced into subsisting on yogurt and coffee, and thereby shedding last years fresher donuts and pastries. However, in this burgeoning age of humanism, I must be concerned with those who are not trying to lose weight, but who perhaps have a very limited amount to spend on food and need all the nutrition it can buy.

The idea of a student-run dining hall serving one good hot meal a day to everyone would not only be a healthier influence, but an emotionally unifying one. This type of dining hall would provide a warm, favorable atmosphere, and even a retreat from a world where spiritual isolation has become a recurring theme.

In the Study of Art we are aware of the Pop artist's attempt to point out the crass and vulgar aspects of our plastic society. To harbor a little corner of it at Mass. Art, a training ground for the socially aware, can't be shrugged off as "camp" or "dealing with reality", but should be seen as shades of 1984.

Chris Barnes

SUE DOSICK

ALAN WASSILAK

EARTH DAY GARDEN

SUE DOSICK

Pollution From Within

The following letter was sent by Jeremy Foss to the faculty council:
This letter is a request to the faculty council to conduct, immediately, a thorough investigation into the present harm caused by fumes emitted from the basement area of the main college building.

In my opinion, both through personal experience and by discussion with Ron Hayes who has scientific knowledge of the chemical makeup of the resin, lacquer, and clay, that the toxic level is extremely harmful, not only to students working directly with these materials (at least 5 of whom have recently reported experiencing "chest pains and lightheadedness" (names on request) but to everyone, students, faculty, and administration, who are subject to continued exposure to these fumes.

It is my understanding through George Greenamyer that the main justification for the continued use of lacquer and silicone sprays, assigned problems calling for the use of toxic resin, and the uncontrolled dissemination of clay dust, rests upon 2 points, 1. a minimization of the effects of these fumes, particularly in relation to safety precautions employed by students in the sculpture spaces, and 2. the importance of maintaining aesthetic standards and art involvment.

As I dont pretend expertise in determining the effects of the fumes, I would ask simply that a group, perhaps headed by Mr. Hayes, and possibly including a doctor and safety analyst, to give some sort of opinion as to the present or potential danger involved.

Thematter of maintaining aesthetic standards in the face of any known, continuous damage to the health of students is, in my view, totally indefensible and has nothing to do with the meaning or purpose of art.

In conclusion I would like to make clear my highest respect for all members of the sculpture department, particularly George Greenamyer, whose sincerity and passion are unquestioned.

Jeremy Foss

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This letter was posted on the door of one of the rooms in the sculpture department with the sign, "NO MORE RESIN...READ THIS". I asked Mr. Doucette of that department it the students had stopped using the resiin and he answered that they had stopped "officially" and added "under protest". Nevertheless the fumes are still present and obviously someone is still using the stuff. I doubt if "unofficial" resin is less toxic than "official" resin.

Curiously, among artists (and I suppose among members of other similafly inclined professions) it is considered romantic to risk ones life in the pursuit of Art. We all have the right to our own fantasies. But risking the lives and health of other people who may not share that romantic fantasy is extending beyond what may be considered our right. In an institution whose students are supposedly "sensitive" to other people, it is hard to believe there is such unconcern in an area that affects them so vitally.

Speaking to Ronald Hayes I learned that the catalyst used in this casting process, methylethylkeytoneperoxide, although harmless in itself, when combined with the other chemicals is released into the air, after undergoing chemical change, as methyl-ethyl-keytone. This chemical is absorbed in to the lungs and into the blood, and acts as a cumulative poison and in a surprisingly short time affects the spleen and produces an irreversible process of blood cell destruction quite similar in effect to leukemia. More information can be found in the library. Hawng only discovered that the substance is as harmful as it is yesterday I have not been able to research it further myself.

It is necessary for adequate ventilation system to be installed in the sculpture rooms, and members of that department have told me that they have been asking for one for a long time. But until there is a fan there is no excuse for endangering the whole school with the toxic fumes.

The familiar smell has been known all over the school for a couple of years. I have never considered making an issue of it before, trusting the good sense of the faculty in investigating the potential dangers of a substance before allowing it to be used. Knowing the risks now, it is difficult for me to believe that the substance is still being used. Apparently more pressure is needed.

Elaine Luti

About The Auction

It has been a few weeks since the art auction occured, and they say distance provides for increased objectivity. I came to the auction not quite knowing what to expect. The title "6-hour art auction steal" sounded like a lure to Filene's basement. On the other hand, I hoped for something as polished as Sotheby's. In reality I found a lot of the former (mini-skirted hostesses) and a little of the latter (champagne and great cheese).

Quite a few people were rather put off by the manner of the auctioneer's comments, in particular those of Mr. Cunningham's concerning abortion (regarding a painting of the same name). The pace was excruciatingly slow. An auctioneer is supposed to keep the pieces and prices jumping fast to build suspense in the audience; that's half the fun, but they just plodded along. This can be forgiven though, considering the inexperience of the auctioneers and the composition of the audience.

In general, the descriptions sounded like something out of a Sear's catalogue (beautiful shades of gray, it measures 24" by 36"). They seemed to be selling to the little lady in Dubuque who wanted something is beige-rose for her living room; but then that's the sort of clientele these affairs attract. And,oh, the sweet misery of having them cross your palm with silver.

The auction did have its good points, however. Basically, it was a good idea, and raising money for Mass. Art is one of the better incentives for doing anything. On that point it was a success, the first of its kind,creditable in no small was to good organization and publicity. I have my doubts that the money should be used for something as extravagant as a visiting exhibit when there are so many more pressing needs within the school, such as the lack of equipment. This view is shared by many others.

It has been a long time since the halls resounded with such gaiety and, in addition to the recent play "The Drunkard", and the park, it's encouraging to see epople getting together to make a project a success,leading into better accomplishments inthe future. -Sue Dosick